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Indiana Launches 2013 Funding Data on Conservation Accomplishments Website

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) collaborated to create a Web application for its federal, state and local members. The result is a comprehensive tool that unites all ICP conservation accomplishments for each county and the state as a whole in a single reporting mechanism.

“The Indiana Conservation Partnership’s organizations assist land users in urban and rural areas of our state using public and private investment in conservation efforts,” says Sue Ellspermann, Lt. Governor and Secretary of Agriculture. “This new tool allows the public to see how effectively our coalition puts conservation practices in place and will provide important data as we pursue additional conservation funding for Indiana.”

“This is an important tool that allows SWCD’s to showcase local projects and demonstrate their accountability of local, state, federal, and private dollars put towards conservation,” said Jeff Meinders, President, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD).

The website, <http://www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/>, allows users to search statewide and county level information on conservation investments made with local, state and federal funding. The tool provides a greater level of transparency and allows the partnership to effectively report on funds spent, and will support requests for federal funds in the future.

Users can easily navigate the application by making a few search field selections from drop down menus. Customized reports are generated with funding breakdown information, local success stories, and contact information. Reports can be downloaded and printed.

The ICP is dedicated to working together to put conservation on the land throughout Indiana to protect and enhance the state's natural resources. Collaborative efforts work to preserve and improve water quality, reduce erosion, enhance and create wildlife habitat, reduce flooding impacts, etc. ICP members include:

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the 92 county SWCDs,
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management,
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources,
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation,
- Purdue Cooperative Extension Service,
- State Soil Conservation Board,
- US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, and the
- US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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